



## **APL Maritime and the Massachusetts Maritime Academy Save the Seals...**

...and the turtles! Cape Cod, Massachusetts is one of the world's most active marine stranding hotspots. Because the landform projects out into the warm Gulf Stream making its way up the East Coast of the United States, the Cape is a frequent location of animal strandings and injuries. Marine animals get caught in the Gulf Stream and ride it Northward until reaching Cape Cod, where it meets the cold Labrador and Greenland currents. The animals cannot survive the dramatic temperature drop, and are often found stranded on local beaches in poor physical condition. Many do not survive.

The National Marine Life Center (NMLC) is a non-profit marine animal hospital, rescue and rehabilitation center located in Buzzard's Bay, Massachusetts near the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. The NMLC's mission is to rescue, rehabilitate and release stranded or injured marine mammals and sea turtles. Their facilities include a comprehensive marine mammal hospital and laboratory, recovery tanks and rehabilitation pens, and a science and education center.

The "Future Leaders" are a group of exceptional and highly motivated cadets (students) from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy; one of 7 merchant marine academies in the United States that educates and prepares tomorrow's ship officers, industry leaders and future executives. The Future Leaders group was created by APL Maritime through the government-sponsored industry group "Ship Operations Cooperative Program" (SOCP).

While performing Community Service projects at the NMLC, Future Leader cadets discovered that the Center's salt water circulation pump was out of commission and that the rescued animals were suffering from the lack of clean seawater which was negatively impacting their recovery process. The cadets worked with their industry host SOCP and sponsor APL Maritime to create a plan to repair the defective pump; APL made a \$1000 donation to pay for supplies and parts, the pump was removed from the Center and placed on a truck to transport it to the engineering laboratory at the

Academy where engineering students and their professors disassembled, repaired, reassembled and then re-installed the pump.

Because the pump has been fully repaired, the salt water circulation in the animal recovery tanks and pens has been brought back up to the required level, the animals are much happier and healthier, and are able to recover and heal much more quickly so they can eventually be released back into the wild!



Meet “Jones” (l) and “Bear” (r) – current residents at NMLC. They became injured and stranded when they could no longer dive to hunt for food due to ear infections. Both are recovering more quickly due to the assistance of APL and MMA and should be released back into the environment in just a few weeks. Also pictured; Capt. Chris Volkle, APL Maritime Deputy Director of Operations and Corporate Social Responsibility lead, and a cadet volunteer from MMA.



This is “Etta”, another resident of the NMLC. Etta is a highly endangered Kemp’s Ridley sea turtle. She has a serious injury to her shoulder caused by the effects of cold water stunning and will undergo surgery at the New England Aquarium next week to repair the injury. After surgery, Etta will undergo physical therapy and when she is able, will be released back into the wild.



This handsome devil is Sealonardo Dicaprio (the volunteers at NMLC name all the patients). Sealonardo is a male harbor seal pup that was separated from its mother and found dehydrated and malnourished. Sealonardo says; “On behalf of myself and all the other residents of NMLC; THANK YOU very much to APL for your generous donation and your efforts to make me all better so I can someday go home again.”